

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Umtanum Footbridge on Yakima River Open Again

Repairs to the suspension footbridge across the Yakima River at the Umtanum Recreation Site have been completed and the footbridge is reopened for public use. The footbridge crosses the river about 12 miles south of Ellensburg along Highway 821.

The Umtanum Recreation Site is one of three recreation areas BLM has along a 25-mile stretch of the Yakima River and the only one of the three that does not have user fees during the summer months. The other two recreation sites are Lmuma and Roza, which have a \$2 per vehicle user fee between May 15 and September 15. Camping is allowed at all three sites for up to 7 days at each, but there are a limited number of camping units and they are not under a reservation system.

“The Umtanum Recreation Site is a great place to view bighorn sheep along the north end of the Yakima River Canyon,” says Jim Fisher, Field Manager of the BLM Wenatchee office. Fisher estimates the resident herd has about 200 sheep and reports some recent sightings of 40 sheep in this area. When wildlife viewing, Fisher cautions drivers to park in a safe area along the highway.

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